

**Ammanford Urban  
District Council.**

**Medical Officer of  
Health's**

**Report**

**For 1946.**



**Rowland A. McMillan,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*"Amman Valley Chronicle," Ammanford.*



# Ammanford Urban District Council.

AMMANFORD,

DECEMBER, 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1946.

## AN OUTBREAK OF GASTRO-ENTERITIS.

On November 15th, 1946, cases of Acute Gastro-Enteritis appeared in the Ammanford Area. It was estimated that there were about 300 cases, which varied in severity from mild diarrhoea to severe diarrhoea with blood in the stools and associated with marked collapse. All the cases were not in the Urban Area.

After investigation by your Health Department, in co-operation with the County Health Department and the E.M.S. Laboratory in Carmarthen, the source was traced and the carrier isolated. The outbreak thus gradually died out.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Dr. R. A. McMillan (Part-Time).

Mr. L. Sunderland, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	...	...	...	944 Acres
Population	...	...	...	6,495
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	1,792
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£29,018
Net Produce of Penny Rate	...	...	...	£100

## VITAL STATISTICS.

*Births during the Year:—*

			M		F		Total
Live Births—Legitimate	...	...	59	...	37	...	96
Illegitimate	...	...	2	...	2	...	4
Still Births Legitimate	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
Illegitimate	...	...	1	...	0	...	1

## INFECTIOUS FEVERS

Disease Notified	No. of Cases Notified	Ratio per 1000 Civilian Population	
		Ammanford U.D. C.	England & Wales.
Scarlet Fever	36	0.55	1.39
Whooping Cough	12	1.8	2.28
Diphtheria	4	0.6	0.28
Erysipelas	2	0.3	0.22
Measles	2	0.3	3.92
Pneumonia	6	0.9	0.89
Paratyphoid B.	1	0.15	0.02
Acute Encephalitis lethargica	1	0.15	No figure

# DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

	0-4 years	5-14 years	Total
Child Population ...	459	799	1258
Number Immunised ...	422	658	1080
Number of Children 0-14 Immunised in 1946 ...	154	—	154

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1946.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	5	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	0	2
Influenza ...	0	0
Acute Infective Encephalitis ...	0	1
Cancer ...	7	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Disease ...	5	8
Heart Disease ...	10	10
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	1	1
Bronchitis ...	2	2
Pneumonia ...	0	2
Other Respiratory Disease ...	2	0
Gastric or Duodenal Ulcer ...	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases ...	1	1
Nephritis ...	2	1
Diabetes ...	2	1
Maternal Causes ...	0	0
Premature Birth ...	2	1
Congenitive Malformations ...	2	2
Birth Injuries ...	2	0
Diseases of Infancy ...	1	0
Suicide ...	2	1
Other Violent Causes ...	2	1
All other Causes ...	—	—
	47	41

Ratio per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).

## (a) NOTIFICATION:

	Ammanford	England and Wales
Puerperal Fever ...	—	8.50
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—
(b) Maternal Mortality ...	—	1.43

## ABORTION:

	Ammanford	England and Wales.
Mortality rate per 1,000 women, aged 15 to 45 — ...	—	0.016

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases				Deaths.			
Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
4	3	0	1	5	4	0	2
Age Period:—5 months to 72 years, and 5 months to 72 years.							

## *Tuberculosis.*

The Welsh National Memorial Association holds a Clinic every Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. at 24a, Quay Street. Dr. J. T. Jones and a Nurse are in attendance.

The allowances scheme for Tuberculosis sufferers is under the care of a Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee.

## HOSPITAL PROVISION.

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| 1. For Infectious Fevers  | ... | Tumble Isolation Hospital<br>Penygroes Isolation Hospital<br>These are under the control of the County Council. |
| 2. For Tuberculosis   | ... | Hospital treatment for this Disease is undertaken by the Welsh National Memorial Association.                   |
| 3. General  | ... | Swansea Hospital<br>Amman Valley Hospital.<br>Morrison E.M.S. Hospital.   |
| 4. Accidents  | ... | Swansea Hospital.<br>Morrison E.M.S. Hospital   |
| 5. Maternity  | ... | Amman Valley Hospital<br>Carmarthen Hospital<br>Poor Law Institution, Llandilo                                  |
| 6. Orthopaedic  | ... | Swansea Hospital<br>Cardiff—under School Clinic   |
| 7. Unmarried Mothers<br>Illegitimate Infants<br>Homeless Children | }   | Accommodation is provided at the<br>Poor Law Institution, Llandilo  |
| 8. Venereal Diseases<br>(Free Treatment)                          |     | Swansea Hospital<br>Llanelly Hospital   |

## CLINICS.

- |  |     |   |
|--|-----|---|
| Ante-Natal Clinic                        | ... | 1. At the Clinic, High Street,<br>on Tuesday Mornings. Dr. G.<br>Herbert and Nurses in attendance.<br>2. Amman Valley Hospital,<br>Mondays, at 1 p.m. |
| Infant Welfare                           | ... | At the Clinic, High Street, every<br>other Tuesday afternoon. Dr.<br>A. Morgan and Nurses in attend-<br>ance.   |
| School Clinics: 1. Orthopaedic<br>2. Eye | }   | Are held under the control of the<br>County Authority   |

## AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A St. John's Ambulance is stationed in the Town.

## MIDWIVES.

There are three fully qualified Midwives residing and practising in the Area.

# SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of Water for the District was again plentiful throughout the year, and the Filters and Chlorination Plant have worked satisfactorily. Some difficulty is being experienced in maintaining a constant supply to the higher reaches of the district, but everything possible is done in this direction. The one major dislocation of the supply occurred during the fairly heavy frost experienced late in the year, when, in consequence of leakages in the lower reaches with attendant loss of head, it was found to be impossible to maintain a supply for some days. On the whole, the supply was good and fairly regular. The Joint Water Board is faced with abnormal pressure conditions, a wide variation of pressure as between day and night being inseparable from the present supply system, but a Hydrostat fixed on Ammanford Square assists materially in maintaining a supply for the higher regions. The water is sampled regularly by the Joint Water Board, and reports are satisfactory. The entire population is served direct, there being no stand-pipes.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewers have again functioned throughout the year without trouble. The system is by gravitation to the Disposal Works, and is under the control of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board. A few properties remain to be connected, and it is hoped that, with a return to peace conditions, it will be possible to obtain 100 per cent. connection of all possible properties.

## RIVER POLLUTION.

During the year, the County Council sought the co-operation of the Local Authority in this matter. The pollution of rivers and streams will be more easily prevented under the new arrangements. The most serious source of pollution at present is the discharge of washery effluents from Collieries. These effluents are treated by subsidence before discharge, and when the tanks are kept clear of silt, the effluents are discharged in a fairly clean condition.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The statistics in this matter are as follows:—

No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Sewers	...	...	...	1760
No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Cesspits, remaining to be connected to Sewers	...	...	...	3
No. of Houses with Closets built on the Conservancy System, not able to connect to Sewers	...	...	...	8
No. of Houses remaining to be connected	...	...	...	4

The matter of securing the connection of the remaining Houses is now in hand, and it is hoped that connection will have been secured before the end of the year 1946.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING—DRY REFUSE.

The Council undertakes the removal of all Dry House Refuse, collections being made by the Council Lorry thrice weekly from the centre of the Town, and twice weekly from the outlying parts. The Refuse, when collected, is tipped at Myddynfych Farm, Penybank Football Field, and Bettws Park. All the tipping grounds, with the exception of Bettws Park, are outside the Urban Area. Trade Refuse from Fruiterers and Fishmongers' shops is disposed of by the Tradesmen by tipping on a Farm near the Bettws Mountain. In my opinion, immediately the supply position improves, steps should be taken to enforce the provision by householders of proper Dustbins, as all kinds of insanitary receptacles are now used. It has always been the exception to see a proper covered Dustbin in the Streets of the Town, all kinds of boxes, tins and buckets being used for the purpose. Under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the provision of a proper covered Dustbin can be enforced.

## PRIVIES, CESSPITS, Etc.

The contents of the remaining Pail Closets are buried by the Householders in their gardens, and the Cesspits, being built on a seaway principle, no clearance is required, the subsoil being of a porous nature.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

No. of Inspections made for Nuisances	...	...	819
No. of Informal Notices served	...	...	83
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	...	4
No. of Water Leakage Inspections	...	...	408
No. of Water Leakage Notices	...	...	146

*The Statutory Notices were:—*

To replace Broken Inspection Covers ... .. 4

The whole of the Statutory Notices were complied with.

## CAMPING SITES.

During the War, the Council granted Licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1946, for the use of a site at the Old Chemical Works, Peniamman, for a number of Vans. These Licences have not yet been withdrawn.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary under this head.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the Urban Area.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No. of Council Houses found to be infested	...	...	Nil
No. of other Houses found to be infested	...	...	1
No. of Houses disinfested	...	...	1

The method employed for Disinfestation was spraying the surfaces of walls, ceilings and floors with "Zaldecide," containing D.D.T., and fumigating with Sulphur Dioxide. Four pounds of Sulphur were used per 1,000 cubic feet, and fumigation was carried out twice at intervals of two weeks. The work was carried out by the occupiers, and was superintended by the Sanitary Inspector, who subsequently keeps the premises under observation to guard against re-infestation.

## SCHOOLS.

There are five Schools in the Area and two Private Schools, and frequent visits are paid to them. The sanitary condition of the Schools is excellent, each being provided with modern sanitary conveniences connected to the Sewers, and with an abundant supply of Water from the Council Mains.

## SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO CONTROL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the area, nor are there any Registered Houses let in Lodgings.

## HOUSING.

### *Inspection of Houses during the year:—*

1.—(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects under Public or Housing Act	...	134
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	189
2.—Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	Nil
3.—Number of Houses found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation	... ..	31

### *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice:*

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit during the year in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	27
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### *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—*

#### *(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring Defects to be remedied	...	16
(2) No. of Dwelling Houses which were made fit after Service of Formal Notice	... ..	14

#### *(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—*

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring Defects to be remedied	...	15
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which Defects were remedied after Service of Formal Notices	... ..	15



(c) *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
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(d) *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

No action was taken, as there are no Tenements or Underground Rooms occupied in the Area	...	...	Nil
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*Housing Act 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding:—*

(a)—(1) Number of Houses Overcrowded at the end of the year	47
(2) Number of Families Dwelling therein	98
(3) Number of Persons Dwelling therein	326
(b) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	11
(c)—(1) Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
(2) Number of Families Dwelling therein	Nil

The new cases are the result of the return of men and women from service with the Forces. Good progress is now being made with the provision of new Houses, and it is anticipated that a number of cases of overcrowding will be relieved during 1947.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY.

### MILK.

Number of Purveyors of Milk on the Register	37
Number of Cowsheds in the Urban Area	14
Number of Milk Shops in the Urban Area	5
Number of Inspections made	146
Number of Producers from outside who retail Milk in the Urban Area	10

One Retailer sells Pasteurised Milk, which is produced, treated and bottled outside the Area.

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the shops are regularly examined so as to protect the Public from the consumption of Unsound Food. The general quality is not of the same standard as in pre-War years, but this probably true of all parts of the country. Meat is now brought into the district from Ministry Stores and Abattoirs, so no Slaughtering is done at Ammanford.

### BAKEHOUSES.

Number of Bakehouses on the Register	6
Number of Inspections made	31

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Area. No action was taken by the Local Authority in the matter.

## NUTRITION.

### *Dissemination of Knowledge.—*

Particulars of any special work	...	...	...	Nil
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## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Houses fumigated after cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	41
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Free Disinfectants are supplied by the Council, and the rooms are fumigated with Formalin Vapour after the period of isolation is ended, or immediately the patient is removed to hospital. No facilities exist in the district for the cleansing of verminous persons or their goods.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of Factories on the Register	...	...	58
No of Inspections made	...	...	132

All defects brought to the notice of Factory owners and managements were attended to.

## CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE.

Much good work has been done in the Control of the Rat population. Under the terms of the Infestation Order, 1943, an operator is kept at work regularly on Rodent Control. It is the practice to service the sewers twice in each year, refuse tips being dealt with as required. Many premises where heavy infestations were discovered, have been cleared of rats, and no evidence of their return has been found after the lapse of a considerable period of time. The financial assistance received from the Ministry of Food, and latterly from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, has made it possible to give a free service to all householders, and it is hoped that this assistance will not be withdrawn, so that the continued co-operation of householders can be obtained, as a large number of Rats are destroyed by following up complaint and reports received from all parts of the town.

During the year under review, the town has been covered systematically under a "Block System," and this work will be completed early next year. The Rats destroyed, and in fact the Pre-bait takes, prove that since the inception of the Scheme under the Infestation Order, the number of Rats in the Town has been considerably reduced.

Your obedient Servant,

**ROWLAND A. McMILLAN,**

M.O.H.



